



Angélica Infante-Green
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
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Enclosure 6d
February 9, 2021

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TO: Members of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

FROM: Angélica Infante-Green, Commissioner *A. Infante*

RE: Request for Continuation of Authority to Commissioner to Temporarily Waive Certain Requirements of Educator Certification Regulations

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global health emergency. It has impacted education in a various ways, possibly interfering with educators' ability to meet certification requirements. Unlike the spring, most certification tests are offered remotely, institutions of higher education are offering most classes remotely and professional development days have been built into the 2020-2021 school calendar. RIDE expects most educators will now be able to meet all certification requirements; however we acknowledge that there may be circumstances related to COVID-19 that prevent the completion of some requirements.

To address ongoing conditions and provide flexibility to educators, this request follows the previous request from June, 2020 to delegate authority to the Commissioner of Education to temporarily waive certain requirements of educator certification regulations. This request would only remain in effect until September 15, 2021, to ensure that the waivers solely affect those Rhode Island educators impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education delegate to the Commissioner of Education, as of this date, the authority to temporarily waive any certification requirements in the Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in Rhode Island relating to professional learning units and testing as she deems necessary to address the impact of COVID-19, and to take appropriate interim measures to implement any such temporary waivers. This delegation of authority shall remain in effect until September 15, 2021.